

**Massachusetts Water Resources Commission  
Meeting Minutes for January 14, 1999**

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Mark P. Smith	Designee, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Marilyn Contreas	Designee, Department of Housing and Community Development
Peter Webber	Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management
Richard Thibedeau	Designee, Department of Environmental Management
Lealdon Langley	Designee, Department of Environmental Protection
Lee Corte-Real	Designee, Department of Food and Agriculture
Karen Pelto	Designee, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Environmental Law Enforcement
Joe Pelczarski	Designee, Office of Coastal Zone Management
David Rich	Public Member
Bob Zimmerman	Public Member

**Others in Attendance:**

Lee Azinheira	Town of Mansfield
Charles Aspinwall	Town of Millis
Bob Chapell	Woodard & Curran, Inc.
Michele Cobban Barden	Neponset River and Watershed
Steve Bishop	Town of Mansfield
Nina Danforth	DEM
Lorraine M. Downey	MWRA
Daniel Garson	Woodard & Curran, Inc.
Vicki Gartland	DEM
Mike Gildesgame	DEM
Deborah Graham	DEM
Paul Jacobsen	Selectman, Town of Millis
Andrea Langhauser	Ten Mile River Watershed Team Leader
Duane LeVangie	DEP
Ron Massey	DPW, Town of Franklin
Tony Mucciarone	DPW, Town of Franklin
Nicole Napoleon	Intern, DEM
Cary Parsons	Woodard & Curran, Inc.
Peter Phippen	EOEA
Gretchen Roorbach	MWRA
Lou Wagner	Massachusetts Audubon Society

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**Agenda Item #1: Executive Director's Report:**

- **Robert Durand** is settling in to his new position as Secretary of EOE. Mr. Durand has strong interests in water issues and the Watershed Initiative.
- **Federal Government Funding:** An administrative proposal for open space and watershed protection has resulted in new money. As a result of this, through the Federal EPA Clean Water Act, the DEP section 319 grant program will double in size. The program will address watershed and non-point source issues.
- MWRA will be receiving their new outfall permit. The permit will address water conservation and I/I issues.
- DEM sent out a reminder to communities with approved interbasin transfers to file reports as needed to comply with WRC conditions of approval.
- **Pending applications under the Interbasin Transfer Act:** Drury reported that there are four active requests and two determination of insignificant. Hopkinton's additional information was received this week, but it has not been determined if the application is complete. If it is complete, a staff recommendation will be in March and a vote in April. Stoughton has submitted a full application for the Cedar Swamp well. The information is being reviewed by the EOE agencies to determine if it is complete. MWRA has submitted an application for interbasin transfer for the Braintree and Weymouth interceptor; it is being reviewed. Ashland with Hopkinton put in their interbasin transfer application.

**Agenda Item #2: Staff Recommendation: Town of Mansfield's request for determination of insignificance under the Interbasin Transfer Act**

Drury presented information based on the January 14th memo. The town of Mansfield has applied to transfer 0.99 mgd to the Taunton River basin from a proposed water supply source, Witch Pond Well #10. The proposed well is located in the Ten Mile basin, near Witch Pond Swamp, and the pond outlet is to the Upper Bungay Brook. The lower portions of the brook are stocked with trout, and there is a federal salmon hatchery on the brook. The Town of Foxborough has proposed two wells adjacent to the proposed Mansfield well. Staff believes that the request does not meet the criteria for insignificance, and should be reviewed under a full Application for Approval. Also, Foxborough and Mansfield have been advised to investigate impacts of their wells and to examine each others' proposals.

The Town of Foxborough believes the ground water basin divide does not follow the surface water basin divide. Their pump tests show inflow across basin divide. The Act requires that they look at the surface basin supply at full capacity for a full review. Mansfield needed to look at water not just coming from the Ten Mile basin but all inflow at full capacity.

The Town of Mansfield is prepared to buy the land the well is on, but would like this matter resolved to determine if the land is worth investing in. The town officials are aware of certain impacts, but have not been able to share information with Foxborough. In contradiction to the staff recommendation, Mansfield's calculations do not show the well will draw significant amounts of water. They also stated they will not be drawing more water, but they will use the water obtained from this well to lower the amount of water pumped out of other wells. The Town of Mansfield is asking for guidance on how to determine insignificance for cumulative impacts. They also asserted their disappointment that Foxborough received a Water Management Act permit from DEP without

going through the process Mansfield is going through. Zimmerman asked if you can increase the amount of water pumped without a new permit from DEP. Mansfield said no, that they would have to go to DEP.

The Commission questioned if Mansfield and Foxborough would be using the same aquifer. Mansfield representatives said yes; they also stated they have tried to work with Foxborough but Foxborough has refused. Drury noted that the Commission needs to be consistent with the proposed projects. O'Donnell expressed a concern because of all the demand on the small aquifer with the proposed and existing wells. She requested a capacity study be done on the Ten Mile basin this year so the information is there for future applications.

**Agenda Item #3: First presentation; Water needs forecast for Millis**

Drury presented the forecast based on a memo given to the Commission in January 1999. The Town of Millis is requesting additional water for themselves and for the purpose of selling some to the town of Franklin. They have a good water conservation plan. The town's population is 91% in the Charles River Basin. Millis is developing a joint water management plan for Millis and Franklin. There is no formal agreement between Franklin and Millis, so staff has provided a two-tiered water needs forecast showing one with Franklin's demand and the other with just Millis'. The DEP wants more information on what has been done in Millis and Franklin to address their water management needs.

**Agenda Item #4: Status Report: Update on IBT projects and public comments**  
**the motion was accepted unanimously received on the draft performance standards**

**Agenda item #5: Presentation: Revised 1999 WRC work plan**

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MLG

Minutes approved 6/10/99